

Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Alan Ong	Todd Friedman	Cassandra Louie	Adriana Aviles	Albert Suhu	
President of the Council	First Vice- President	Second Vice President	Recording Secretary	Treasurer	
Council Members:			Danielle Giunt	a	
Norman Cohn	Sulinda Hong	Community Superintendent			
Dennis Chan	Dilip Nath	District 26			
Jennifer Catherall	Taeho Hwang				

October 21, 2021 Meeting

Calendar Meeting

Meeting called to Order and Roll Call at 7:05 PM by Alan Ong.

Present: Alan Ong, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Jennifer Catherall, Norman Cohn, Taeho Hwang, Dilip Nath,

Adriana Aviles, Todd Friedman, Sulinda Hong, and Athena Gavros

Absent: Cassandra Louie

Also, Present: Danielle Giunta, Superintendent Tara Davidson, Deputy Superintendent District 26, and District 26 Team

- I. Welcome
- II. Superintendent Report: (See addendum A)
 - NYC Kids Rise: Save for College Program Students will have an NYC scholarship open with a \$100 deposit in the account and opportunities to add to the account.
 - SHSAT Registration Open
 - NYC DOE Social Emotional Learning Screener
 - Available Updates on NYC DOE GT Community Engagement Plan- November 15
 - Parent Workshop

III. Cathy Grodsky Presidents' Council:

- Shared concerns about COVID case and procedure for informing parents.

IV. Proposed Resolution to Prevent Anti-Asian Racism and Bullying in Schools (See addendum B)

John Liu: I want to thank CEC 26 once again. This resolution affects me personally and so many people, whether Asian American or not. Asian Americans face secondary viruses that virus being hate and bigotry we've all seen the heinous videos of people being attacked or just. Just having bias incidents, whether they be rude gestures and stupid comments to attacks on the streets and in the subways, People being shoved violently and sent to the hospital, and, of course, the massacre in Atlanta, which in my opinion, could have just as easily happened in New York City, because that there's some ridiculous scapegoating of Asian Americans going on for covert itself. The former President of the United States incessantly called it, the China virus, or the flu that really and empowered people to take it out against Asian Americans now some call for additional penalties more jail time. I think the real long-term solution is what you are also committed to, and that is education, hate, and bigotry and the root of it is ignorance, fear, and ignorance fear because there's this covid virus that's been killing millions of people around the world, and thousands of fellow New Yorkers and ignorance leading people to just you know look for somebody to blame and Asian Americans have been once again this the targets of business scapegoating. The long-term solution to this is educating people and making sure that at least our kids in New York, schools get some history lessons about the Asian American experience so that we're not seen as these perpetual foreigners. This is one of the syndromes that we face as Asian Americans, the perpetual foreigner syndrome, where the feeling is somehow like we're not real Americans. Lack of humanity; I would say depravity with which some of these attacks have been carried out against Asian Americans. We should be teaching kids in our public schools, about the Asian American experience, not the same two paragraphs that I had when I was a public-school student, which is something about the

building of the transcontinental railroad and the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. Asian American history is far more than just those two aspects and we need to get people educated about Asian Americans, so they could see us as Americans as human beings. My senate bill which I am pushing very far it's also co-sponsored in the State Assembly by Assembly Member Ron Kim. It requires the state education department to provide curricula and materials and instructions for school districts all around the State of New York to include Asian American history in the public-school syllabus now I'm also pushing the Department of Education here in New York to you know to go. go a little quicker than the State, because you know it takes a long time to get something statewide done for the city of New York, we have a large concentration of Asian American families.: These students have been victimized either directly or indirectly and its high time for the school system within our city To do something about it. CEC's passing these kinds of resolutions and a resolution from CEC 26 will be a very loud voice and message to the Department of Education, that we need this to happen.

- Albert Suhu CEC26 Member: I want to start by saying that I was motivated to run for a seat on the CCE because of the surge in anti-Asian hate incidents since last year, and, the members of the CEC then formed a committee to a final resolution to address this issue. You might ask to know why the CEC needs to do this right, why do we need to do something. The resolution is intended to try to nip anti -Asian racism and right now when children are very impressionable, and they start to form biases. If I was at schools and teachers have a vital role in shaping how children view the world, and if anti-Asian bias is addressed at an early age, then such racism can be vented as children mature into adulthood. Let me give you a short anecdote right in the 70s, the 80s, I attended New York City public schools, including a specialized high school I endured bullying and aggressions because of my race. I thought this behavior does not occur in a specialized high school Well, I can tell you is wrong dead wrong. I have to admit that it was very disheartening to hear my classmates you know kids I that I see every day in class saying racial slurs. It's just not good, and also as we've all seen on TV or newspapers about the epidemic of anti-Asian hate crimes. The derogatory epithets spoke these attacks identical to the ones I heard decades ago in my youth and specifically something like you don't belong here go back to China. And there's no justification for such continuous segments, you see my grandfather became a legal resident of the US around the beginning of the 20th century and was in two war two in New York city's trying to t live to raise funds to support the US war. Years later, my father and I received letters and commendations from the President and the secretary of Defense. And shortly after 911, I got a position to work at the Pentagon to protect donations from further terrorist attacks. My family has lived in the US for nearly 120 years and contributed our blood, sweat, and tears to help protect this nation that we consider ours. So, there's really no basis for anyone to say to Asian Americans, and we should go back to the countries of our heritage and this applies equally for those who have immigrated here recently So how do we dispel this ignorance right. The way to do this is to change the school curriculum to fully document, the experience of the Asian American Community and his contributions in the US. If children understand that the US is a multicultural society in which Asians have been an integral part since the founding of the nation, then Asian Americans can gain acceptance and racism should be decreased. As we've all heard right there was a bill in the state Senate to mandate the inclusion, with the full historical experience of Asian Americans. In the New York state school curriculum, but as the Senator state stated, we can't wait for the state legislature to do its work as a namespace. The chance to connect now right to adopt the provisions of the State bill for all New York City schools, and that is the primary goal of this resolution. One thing I want to one last thing with add is, I want to make clear that we applaud our superintendent and the school administrators and teachers, and district 26 but do the right things. And we wish that all other districts across the city can model district 26 efforts to prevent racism of any kind of thinking back to you.
- Ms. Lee: I whole supported support this resolution. I want to thank Sen. Liu and CEC member Suhu for supporting my child at MS 158. I don't want my child to be treated differently and I want to ensure that we continue to educate our children and further the understanding of Asian-Americans.
- Tin Yu: Last year, my child was called coronavirus and it broke my heart. My children grew up here and they have a very limited understanding of what Asian-Americans did in the country besides the railroad system. We need to know our roots and I hope you guys all vote yes for the resolution.

- Sara: Please go forward with this. My son is in the Dual Language program and it is the community we love and want to support. I found myself not knowing about Asian-American and there are tons of books that are coming out. Can I ask for an amendment to unable to speak with administering to.

Albert Suhu motioned to approve the resolution to Prevent Anti-Asian Racism and Bullying in Schools - Voted Yes:

- Alan Ong, Dilip Nath, Jennifer Catherall, Adriana Aviles, Taeho Hwang, Norman Cohn, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, and Albert Suhu, **Abstain-** Todd Friedman**_Absence:** Cassandra Louie **Resolution is approved with 9 votes.**
- V. Proposed Resolution Opposing the Removal of Geographic Priorities for Queens High Schools (see addendum C) Alan Ong motion to approve the Resolution is approved unanimously on October 21, 2021 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote by CEC26 members.
 - Cathy Grodsky: I just want to say Presidents' council made this is an issue and that's been on our radar for a while now, and that we've been raising the alarm bells about this, this is a very vital issue for our Community, and we hear parents talk about this every day. Parents move to our Community for our high schools and to know that we have a geographic preference and I know that we have already left we've lost many, many incredible families to other areas in New York City and beyond, and this would if this goes through I am afraid, with it would be even greater. President's Council as I have said for about over a year now, we are steadfast in our commitment to make sure that this does not go through.

Resolution is approved unanimously on October 21, 2021 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote by CEC26 members.

- VI. Dave Waltzer UFT: UFT already passed the resolution for Asian-American as well. In the district, we are campaigning for breast care awareness and winter clothing for families and students. We are campaigning for CM Lee.
- VII. Calvin Wei CCELL: Shared information about CCELL achievement, connected with them, and spoke about English learner students.

VIII. Public Comment:

- Dawn Padilla: I'm writing in regard to my 7-year-old son, Christopher Padilla, a student at P.S 221 the North Hills School who is being unjustly penalized. Unfortunately, Christopher's 3rd-grade class (3-105) was the first in his grade to have positive COVID testing. Christopher was not mandated by the current DOE guidelines to quarantine but as a safety precaution, I chose to self-quarantine him. Christopher is actively attending class online along with the mandated students and handing in assignments, taking tests, and participating in virtual assembles as well as receiving accolades from his Teachers for hard work and perseverance which is why it's unfair that during the quarantine period of 10 days he is being marked absent when school documents will clearly show his presence and participation. Christopher is not choosing to be unvaccinated same as he did not choose self-quarantine. He shows up to the school whether in-person or virtually and puts in the work and effort. This was also acknowledged at the end of school last year during a time when a lot of us struggled through the Pandemic Christopher was voted Student of the Month for his class which was read and announced by Principal Bullard. I implore you to reconsider tarnishing his academic record and allowing him to be marked present during the self-quarantine period will be filled and he suggested substitute teachers.
- IX. CEC26 members Sulinda Hong- We want to ensure that parents receive notification faster regarding covid.
 - CEC26 member Dennis Chan-I want to understand more about substitute teachers being in class and the effectiveness of their quality of education and when will the teacher return.

- CEC26 member Adriana Aviles: I sent a letter to the superintendent about how schools will look like about how many teachers or subjects are missing staff as a result of the vaccination requirement. We would like to know just the number. **Superintendent responded** we are not sharing that confidential information and staff goes for many reasons why they are not in the building which can be health, religious and private. You put in for foil requests and that is the right step to taking into getting more information. This is not the data I can share.
- CEC26 member Todd Friedman: What is the policy for the policy to let parents know about IEP services if the child is not receiving services? Schools should be in contact with parents and is a serious service and legally mandated service. If a child does not receive the mandated services, reach out to your classroom teacher, parent coordinator, and school support system.
- CEC26 Member Adriana Aviles- Families get \$50 broadband and PSAL is allowing families to attend the games.

Alan Ong motioned to adjourn Meeting at 8:36 PM. Motion passed.

Submitted by Farjana Faruk

Business Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting: 8:40 PM

Meeting called to Order and Roll Call at 8:33 PM by Alan Ong.

Present: Alan Ong, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Jennifer Catherall, Cassandra Louie, Norman Cohn, Taeho Hwang, Dilip Nath, Athena Gavros, Adriana Aviles, Todd Friedman, Sulinda Hong, and Athena Gavros

Absent: Cassandra Louie

Also, Present: Tara Davidson, Deputy Superintendent, and District 26 Team

l. Welcome

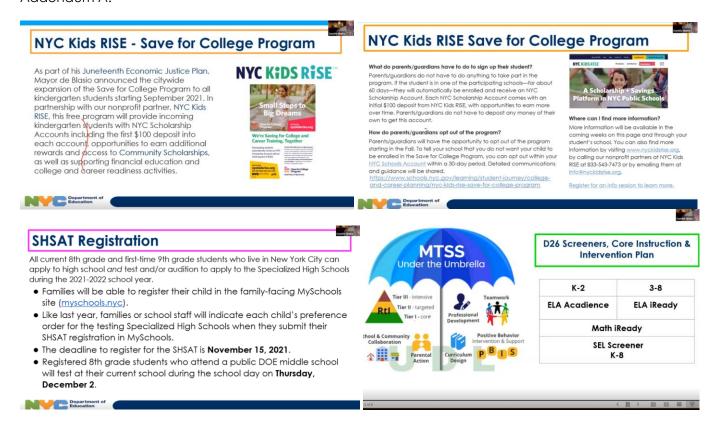
- II. Procedure: One of the roles is to escalate the information for parents. We will continue to do that, but we need to start at the local level and escalate the information, please raise it at the school level first. If it's an incident with a child, please raise the concern at the school level. All communication should be made through Farjana but please filter out what is CEC agenda is and what is a personal request. A lot of us are communicating through email and discussing over email is fine but it is not efficient as many of us are not monitoring it and please don't expect us to act on it. Going forward, please email me and Farjana directly asking what you are asking for and what you would like to see.
- III. <u>Minutes</u> are reviewed for September 29, 2021, and a motion was made by Norman Cohn to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously for approval of minutes. Information was shared about October 12th Special Meeting as the recording was stopped.
- IV. <u>Budget:</u> Albert Suhu shared the updated budget and motioned to approve the budget. The budget passed unanimously for adding funds to purchase technology for an in-person meeting. See addendum D.
- V. **Updates from FACE-** We are still waiting for the Data regarding HS admission regarding the ones you are posing.
- VI. Meeting Dates:

November 9th meeting: As our G&T conversation is around the November meeting, we want to ensure that we don't have a conflict with the G&T conversation from DOE. In anticipation of the G&T conversation, we would like to inform you that our meeting can change. Does anyone have any objection to that? No objection.

Proposing meeting dates change from January 27 to January 13 due to virtual meetings ending on January 14. Norman Cohn motioned to approve the meeting. Any objection to the meeting date change to January 13. Motioned passed unanimously.

- VII. Adriana would like to hold a Town Hall for G&T. Discussion of the town hall and unfortunately, AA has paid time off and within 5 days, it will be hard to organize the meeting within the short time frame. Alan Ong suggested that we forgo our business meeting for November 9 and focus on G&T conversations from families. Norman Cohn motion to pass. Motioned passed unanimously with 9 votes. Dilip and Cassandra are absent from voting.
- VIII. Capital Plan: Please explain what it is and connect with school visits. Alan Ong explained the procedures of how we prioritize Capital Plan regarding picking the top 5 from the list we receive from the principal. Motion to approve the procedure of prioritizing capital plan. No objection. Capital Plan representatives will be attending our meeting which will be in December.
- IX. Alan Ong motioned to adjourn Meeting at 09:36 PM. Motion passed.

Addendum A:



CASEL Framework & Definition of SEL

(updated 2020)

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.



Devereaux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)





(grading system)

Addendum B:

Resolution to Prevent Anti-Asian Racism and Bullying in Schools Approved on October 21, 2021

WHEREAS, racist rhetoric repeated in the media since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge of anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City; and

WHEREAS, New York City (NYC) reported the largest increase of anti-Asian hate crimes, documenting a 223% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes compared to the same period in the previous year: and

WHEREAS, NYC schools are home to 170,000 students of Asian heritage: and

WHEREAS the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has promised to provide a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment, such that racial and ethnic diversity is embraced; and

WHEREAS, Community Education Council 26 (CEC26) values the diverse cultures and heritage of the Asian American community, which includes our students, families, and staff; and

WHEREAS, CEC26 recognizes that the Asian American community has endured continued bigotry and xenophobia since the founding of our nation; and be it further

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association confirms that the historical racism experienced by Asian Americans has caused suffering in the form of psychological trauma, feelings of societal invisibility, and severe mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans are often reluctant to report bullying due to language barriers; and

WHEREAS, CEC26 recognizes the efforts of the District 26 Superintendent in taking tangible actions to address anti-Asian hate,

WHEREAS, CEC26 understands the role the Mayor and Chancellor have in preventing racism by teaching children to value diversity; and

WHEREAS, District 26 parents submitted a petition to the Mayor and Chancellor in April 2021, demanding school curriculums citywide be more inclusive of Asian-American experiences and contributions: and 2

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Chancellor's response to the petition was minimal in preventing anti-Asian racism; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has already implemented the TEACH Act, mandating changes into the school curriculum to include the full Asian-American experience throughout United States history; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator John Liu introduced a similar Senate bill, S6359A, "requiring public elementary and high schools to provide instruction in Asian American history and civic impact"; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC26 demands the Chancellor and Mayor take citywide actions to prevent anti-Asian racism as follows:

- 1. Adopt the provisions of the NYS (New York State) Senate Bill S6359A citywide,
- 2. Implement programs for public schools citywide to acknowledge the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage month by including appropriate lesson plans and celebrations,
- 3. Provide professional development for teachers, parents, and school leaders in cultural awareness of the AAPI community and its history,
- 4. Expand workshops on implicit bias training,
- 5. Create more offerings of dual-language programs and foreign language programs in Asian languages, and
- 6. Develop a system to report incidents of bullying for those parents whose primary language is not English.

This Resolution was approved on October 21, 2021 Calendar Meeting.

CEC 26 Members Present:

Voted Yes:

Alan Ong, Dilip Nath, Jennifer Catherall, Adriana Aviles, Taeho Hwang, Norman Cohn, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, and Albert Suhu. **Abstain:**

Todd Friedman

Addendum C:

Resolution Opposing the Removal of Geographic Priorities for Queens High Schools October 21, 2021

WHEREAS, Queens high schools are the most overcrowded schools in New York City (NYC), operating at 112% capacity ¹; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in our high schools exceeds capacity by 8,849 seats (see exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, Queens high schools are so overcrowded that a significant percentage of our high schools operate in multiple shifts ²; and

WHEREAS 12,394 Queen's students must commute to other boroughs to attend high school due to lack of available seats, and many have NO CHOICE but to commute 2-3 hours daily (see exhibit B); and

WHEREAS, Queens is a "transportation desert". A sizable portion of students' homes and high schools are not located near public train stations, requiring excruciatingly slow bus rides for our students³; and be it further.

WHEREAS, according to research such lengthy commutes impact students' attendance, academics, ability to complete homework, physical and mental health, and ability to participate in afterschool programming, clubs, and sports³; and

WHEREAS, Queens needs an additional 21,243 high school seats (8,849 plus 12,394) to accommodate our students, well above the 6,685 that the School Construction Authority (SCA) cites in its current 5-year capital plan¹; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC), the Queens High School Presidents' Council, and Queens Panel for Education Policy members have urged the Department of Education (DOE) and School Construction Authority (SCA) to build more high schools in Queens for at least a decade, but the SCA has failed to deliver thus far⁴; and

WHEREAS, the SCA's current five-year plan calls for the construction of only 4 high schools with 6,685 seats to be completed by September 2028, meeting less than one-third of the current need, and ignoring the ongoing construction boom in Queens ¹: and

WHEREAS, forcing even more students into overcrowded high schools and overcrowded subways and buses during the COVID-19 pandemic may put their health and even their lives at risk; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Education Council of District 26 (CEC26) opposes the removal of geographic priorities in high school admissions in Oueens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC26 requests the chancellor to rescind removal of the Geographic Priorities until such time the SCA builds new high schools with sufficient capacity to relieve overcrowding in Queens.

CEC26 supports and thanks Queens High School Presidents' Council for their hard work in opposing the removal of geographic priorities for Queens High Schools.

This Resolution was approved unanimously on October 21, 2021 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote by CEC26 members.

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 $^{^2\} https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/ny-crowded-nyc-schools-experiment-social-distancing-20210905-rn3ctllg7fehhl5bdrkz7edfl4-story.html$

³ https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99205/school choice and commuting.pdf

⁴ https://www.cpacnyc.com/

CEC 26 Members Present:

Alan Ong, Dilip Nath, Jennifer Catherall, Adriana Aviles, Todd Friedman, Taeho Hwang, Norman Cohn, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, and Albert Suhu.

Addendum D:

Opening balance is: \$25,000 Total Expense: \$325.00 Closing balance is: \$24,675.00

<u>Detail:</u>

Jennifer Catherall: Childcare expense & Internet service

Taeho Hwang: traveling expense for photo ID and internet service

Non-Contractual Services(Copier) Object Code 433	\$1,548.00		\$0.00	\$1,548.00
Member Reimbursement Object Code (496)	\$5,000.00		\$325.00	\$4675.00
P-Card/Office Supplies	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Supplies General (Workshops) Object Code (198)	\$2,052.00		\$0.00	\$2,052.00
Workshop & Food	\$2500.00		\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Technological Equipment (IPAD And Printer) (332)	\$5800.00			\$4,000.00
	·			
Website (parent service-)686 or 986)	\$700.00		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Vendor Payment for Workshops (489)	\$6,000.00		\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Supplies Water (198)	\$370.00		\$0.00	\$370.00
Water rental (403)	\$30.00		\$0.00	\$30.00
Total	\$25,000.00	\$0.00		
Total	\$25,000.00	\$0.00		
Total Spent	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Balance in Budget	\$24, 675			

Member Name/	Month	Amount	Object Code	Activity
Jennifer Catheral	7/1/2021	\$125.00	496	CEC26 meetings childcare reimbursement and internet service
Jennifer Catheral	8/26/2021	\$125.00	496	CEC26 meetings childcare reimbursement and internet service
Taeho Hwang	9/29/2021	\$ 75.00	496	Internet service/ traveling for photo ID